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M.S. in Development Disabilities

Nova Southeastern University

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M.S. In Developmental Disabilities

Overview

A Master of Science in Developmental Disabilities is designed to prepare researchers, advocates, administrators and policy makers to be leaders in community-based or governmental agencies that address the confluence of issues associated with developmental disabilities throughout the life span. This degree program's body of knowledge will allow graduates of the M.S. program to pursue doctoral-level training in human services, counseling, and public policy, among others. In addition, this degree will provide professionals from disciplines such as nursing and education with the necessary skills to be effective leaders and advance in the field.

Click [HERE](#) for a webinar recording on the Developmental Disabilities program and Applied Behavior Analysis.

The successful graduate of the M.S. in Developmental Disabilities program is expected to:

- Apply knowledge of effective administrative and other leadership skills in the field of developmental disabilities through the use of case study analyses, research papers, and in-class assignments.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the different developmental disabilities and the challenges faced by these individuals across the lifespan.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the impact of the family, the educational system, and community services on the successful integration of individuals with developmental disabilities into the community.
- Apply ethical and legal principles related to working with individuals who have developmental disabilities to real-world cases and settings.
- Apply knowledge of developmental disabilities, organizational behavior, and strategic planning to the design and/or administration of human services organizations which provide services to individuals and families with developmental disabilities.
- Demonstrate research, analytic thinking, and writing skills when creating a program design or evaluation project on a relevant topic in the field.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the impact of health disparities experienced by individuals with developmental disabilities and the implications for healthcare and human services organizations.

This program is designed for individuals seeking a career in or as:

- Program Director (non-profit)
- Program Coordination
- Early Childhood Interventionist
- Transition Specialist
- Job Coach
- Child Life Specialist (with Child Life Specialist concentration)
- Developmental Specialist
- Case Manager
- Vocational Counselor
- Advocate
- Behavior Analyst or Assistant Behavior Analyst (with ABA concentration)

Students enrolled in the Masters of Science in Developmental Disabilities are required to complete 21 credit hours of foundational coursework and 9 credit hours in *one* of the concentrations (excludes practicum/internship courses) at a minimum (30 credits total) to earn the degree.

Following is a sample degree plan for full-time students.

Please note: students seeking to establish eligibility for the Board Certified Assistant Behavioral Analyst (BCaBA), Board Certified Behavioral Analyst (BCBA), or Association of Child Life Professionals (ACLP) exams have the option of taking additional courses as needed in the Applied Behavior Analysis and Child Specialist concentrations.

M.S. in Developmental Disabilities SAMPLE Degree Plan (30 credits)

YEAR ONE

First Term HSDD 5000: Survey of Developmental Disabilities (3 credits) HSDD 5100: Program Design and Evaluation (3 credits)

Second Term HSDD 5200: Disability and the Family Cycle (3 credits) HSDD 5300: Legal and Ethical Issues in Disability (3 credits)

Third Term HSDD 5400: Healthcare Issues in Developmental Disabilities (3 credits) HSDD 5500: Disability Services Administration (3 credits)

YEAR TWO

Fourth Term Concentration course (excludes practicum/internship courses) (3 credits)
 Concentration course (excludes practicum/internship courses) (3 credits)

Fifth Term Concentration course (excludes practicum/internship courses) (3 credits) HSDD 6000: Developmental Disabilities Master's Research Project (3 credits)